5. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 4, wherein the air for ventilation of the fuel cell continues to be supplied to the passage for a specific period of time after the generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped; and

wherein the specific period of time expires when a predetermined period of time elapses and/or when a concentration of hydrogen in the reservoir decreases to a predetermined value or smaller.

6. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 4, further comprising a hydrogen sensor provided downstream of the passage, to detect a breakdown of the hydrogen relief valve during the generation of electric power in the fuel cell.

7. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device for a fuel cell, in which the fuel cell is supplied with air and hydrogen gas to generate electric power and the hydrogen gas discharged from an anode of the fuel cell is recirculated in a hydrogen recirculation piping system, comprising:

a reservoir for retaining hydrogen gas purged from the hydrogen recirculation piping system ;

a cathode exhaust gas pipe connected to a cathode of the fuel cell, wherein the cathode exhaust pipe includes holes for allowing passage of the hydrogen gas retained in the reservoir into the cathode exhaust pipe to dilute the hydrogen gas with cathode exhaust gas in the cathode exhaust pipe and for releasing the hydrogen gas into atmosphere; and

a blower for supplying air to the cathode of the fuel cell and for forcing the air discharged from the cathode of the fuel cell to flow through the cathode exhaust gas pipe,

wherein the hydrogen gas retained in the reservoir is diluted and released into the atmosphere even after generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped.

8. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 7, wherein the blower continues to supply air to the cathode of the fuel cell to dilute and release the hydrogen gas after the generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped.

9. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 8, wherein the blower continues to supply air to the cathode of the fuel cell for a specific period of time after the generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped; and

wherein the specific period of time expires when a predetermined period of time elapses and/or when a concentration of hydrogen in the reservoir decreases to a predetermined value or smaller.

10. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 7, further comprising:

a hydrogen relief valve connected to the reservoir; and

a ventilator for supplying air for ventilation of the fuel cell, wherein when the generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped, the hydrogen relief valve is opened and the ventilator supplies air for ventilation of the fuel cell and forces the air for ventilation of the fuel cell to flow through a passage connected to the hydrogen relief valve.

11. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 10, wherein the ventilator continues to supply the air for ventilation of the fuel cell to the passage for a specific period of time after the generation of electric power in the fuel cell is stopped; and

wherein the specific period of time expires when a predetermined period of time elapses and/or when a concentration of hydrogen in the reservoir decreases to a predetermined value or smaller.

12. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 10, further comprising a hydrogen sensor provided downstream of the passage, for detecting a breakdown of the hydrogen relief valve during the generation of electric power in the fuel cell.

13. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 1, wherein the system comprises a blower for supplying air from a cathode in the fuel cell to the reservoir.

14. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas processing device according to claim 1, wherein the system comprises a ventilator for ventilating the fuel cell.

15 - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method for processing exhaust gas from a fuel cell, wherein the fuel cell is supplied with air and hydrogen gas to generate electric power, the method comprising the steps of:

discharging hydrogen gas exhausted from a hydrogen recirculation piping system connected to an anode of the fuel cell to a reservoir;

stopping generation of electric power in the fuel cell;

diluting the hydrogen gas in the reservoir by operating a blower for a predetermined period of time to supply air to the reservoir after stopping generation of electric power, the predetermined period of time being calculated from a capacity of the reservoir and an amount of hydrogen gas discharged from the fuel cell; and

discharging the diluted hydrogen gas from the reservoir.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for processing exhaust gas from a fuel cell, wherein the fuel cell is supplied with air and hydrogen gas to generate electric power, the method comprising the steps of:

discharging hydrogen gas exhausted from a hydrogen recirculation piping system connected to an anode of the fuel cell to a reservoir;

stopping generation of electric power in the fuel cell;

diluting the hydrogen gas in the reservoir by operating a blower until a concentration of hydrogen in the reservoir is below a predetermined value to supply air to the reservoir after stopping generation of electric power, the concentration of hydrogen in the reservoir being monitored using a hydrogen sensor, the diluting step further comprising opening a relief valve between the reservoir and a ventilator pipe to supply the hydrogen gas from the reservoir to the ventilator pipe, such that the hydrogen gas is diluted with ventilation gas in the ventilator pipe; and

discharging the diluted hydrogen gas from the reservoir.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of diluting the hydrogen gas comprises the step of sucking the hydrogen gas into a cathode exhaust gas pipe arranged in the reservoir, through suction holes provided in the cathode exhaust gas

pipe by the action of exhaust air flowing in the cathode exhaust gas pipe and discharged to outside.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of diluting the hydrogen gas comprises the step of supplying air from a cathode of the fuel cell after stopping generation of electric power.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of diluting the hydrogen gas comprises the step of opening a relief valve between the reservoir and a ventilator pipe to supply the hydrogen gas from the reservoir to the ventilator pipe, such that the hydrogen gas is diluted with ventilation gas in the ventilator pipe.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the step of discharging the diluted hydrogen gas comprises discharging the hydrogen gas and ventilation gas through a ventilation port.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the step of diluting the hydrogen gas comprises the step of sucking the hydrogen gas into a cathode exhaust gas pipe arranged in the reservoir, through suction holes provided in the cathode exhaust gas pipe by the action of exhaust air flowing in the cathode exhaust gas pipe, and discharged to outside.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the step of diluting the hydrogen gas comprises the step of supplying air from a cathode of the fuel cell after stopping generation of electric power.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ [[33]] 26, wherein the step of discharging the diluted hydrogen gas comprises discharging the hydrogen gas and ventilation gas through a ventilation port.